

Human rights are universal. They are every much the rights of the Cuban people as they are the rights of people everywhere. When they are denied, we are all diminished. The United States cannot prevent the wholesale violation of human rights by the Cuban government or any government. But we can speak up.

We can say to them that this is unacceptable.

We can say do not trouble us with your farcial explanations and excuses.

And we can say, with confidence, that those whose rights are so blatantly denied today will one day show their oppressors the real meaning of "revolution"—one that is based on the rights of man, not the brutality of one man.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 3, 2001 in Los Angeles, CA. An Afghani-American woman was physically assaulted and harassed by her two male neighbors as she walked from her car to her house. When the police arrived to take a report, the two men told the officers that the woman had been making terrorist threats.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. BETSY ROGERS OF LEEDS, AL, AS NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Dr. Betsy (Dawson) Rogers, a teacher from Leeds, AL. On April 30, 2003, in the Rose Garden at the White House, President George W. Bush presented Dr. Rogers with the esteemed National Teacher of the Year award. Dr. Rogers was selected for this honor from among the best teachers in the Nation based on her compassion for the children she teaches.

Dr. Rogers, a teacher of first and second grade students at Leeds Elementary School, began teaching in 1985. She was compelled by the needs of many of her students, some from less fortunate families just needing someone to encourage them to strive to their greatest potential. Dr. Rogers invests her time and energy in everyone of her students. Day in and day out,

she goes above and beyond the call of duty, because for her students to achieve their greatest potential, some may need individual attention starting from long before the school day begins and lasting until hours after the last bell rings.

Dr. Rogers has had many opportunities to teach at most any school of her choice. Yet, she has humbly chosen to stay at Leeds Elementary School, knowing that her compassion is best put to use by these children who need it the most.

She loves everything about teaching, because Dr. Rogers is shaping the future for each child who comes into her classroom. She doesn't take this responsibility lightly, and for that she is to be commended. I am grateful to Dr. Rogers and teachers all over Alabama and the Nation just like her, who understand the immense responsibility they have as educators.

Dr. Rogers is blessed with an incredibly supportive family. Her parents, Elenor and Dick Dawson, are friends of mine from Birmingham, and I know they are very proud of their daughter's fine accomplishment. Her two sons, Rick and Alan, have benefitted tremendously from her gifted ability to teach. And her brothers, Richard and Eric, are close to her and celebrate with her on this important award.

Alabama is honored to be home to Dr. Rogers, and I hope that when my grandchildren enter elementary school they will have the fortunate experience to have a teacher just like her.

#### WEST VIRGINIA MILITARY SERVICE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor all West Virginians who have served our country in the military, especially those currently overseas. Former Senator Daniel Webster once said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to defend it." West Virginians are known for their dedication to military service and patriotism, and to this day West Virginians continue their proud tradition of military service. Our soldiers are committed to our Nation's principles, and they are tireless in their efforts to preserve liberty. I rise today to honor these intrepid men and women whose military service and commitment is unmatched—they make me extremely proud to be a West Virginian.

Only 3 States had a higher service rate than West Virginia during World War II. Thirty-six percent of West Virginia's male population—more than one out of every three men—served during that war. Nearly 4,700 West Virginians died fighting for our freedom in that war.

West Virginia had the highest service rate during the Korean War, with 16.2 percent of our men participating. During that war, tragically West Virginia also suffered the highest death rate, with about 40 war-related deaths for

every 100,000 citizens, a total of over 800 deaths.

West Virginia had the second-highest service in the Vietnam War, with 20.3 percent of our men serving. During that war, again West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the Nation. More than 700 citizens from our State died in battle.

Now we are engaged in a war on terror—a war that our troops are fighting heroically. Thousands of West Virginia military personnel are taking part in the war effort, from active duty troops, to brave citizens in the National Guard, to Reservists. Not long ago, the world saw a symbolic climax of this war as the imposing symbol of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship was toppled. This moment could not have happened without the bravery and sacrifice of American forces and these forces would not be complete without the long-standing dedication of West Virginians.

We must not forget those men and women who protected our freedom. In 1940, pilot V.A. Rosewarne remarked, "The universe is so vast and so ageless that the life of one [person] can only be justified by the measure of his [or her] sacrifice." West Virginia has lost proud soldiers in Afghanistan and also in the recent war in Iraq. In any war, there are those who make the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives, and we must honor them. Let me take this opportunity to mention the sense of honor that runs so deep in a representative sample of these West Virginians.

Second Lieutenant Therrel "Shane" Childers was born into a proud military family near West Hamlin, WV, and he always dreamed of a military career. On March 21, at 30 years of age, he became the first U.S. soldier killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His devout determination led a childhood friend of his to say, "I can feel deep in my heart that he was doing what he was meant to do," and his mother to say, "He died doing what he loved best, and that was being a Marine."

There are countless examples of such heroes. Kenny Shadrack, from the mining town of Skin Fork, WV, was the first recorded American death in the Korean War. On July 5, 1950, he gave his life in the fight against tyranny. While it was July 5 in Korea, it was still Independence Day in the United States, and I am sure Kenny understood what he was fighting for as he bravely shot bazooka rounds at the approaching enemy tanks until his life was tragically cut short. President Truman articulated Kenny's sacrifice well when he wrote: "He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who dared to die that freedom might live." West Virginia will never forget the service of people like Kenny.

More recently, the world has heard the heroic story of Private Jessica Lynch, the teenager from Palestine, WV, whose rescue as a prisoner of war from Iraq was universally celebrated. As a matter of fact, approximately 400 West Virginians are surviving former